



From the office of
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Health Care Reform & America's Veterans

The Patient Protection and Affordability Act was enacted to provide all Americans the option of quality affordable health care. Among the many quality options individuals have, the new law recognizes the programs that provide health coverage to members of the military, veterans, and their families.

Question: How will health reform affect military families covered through TRICARE?

Answer: TRICARE will continue to be available for all eligible servicemen and women and their families. Those who are covered by TRICARE would meet the shared responsibility requirement for individuals to have insurance, thereby exempting such members of the uniformed services and dependants from being assessed any sort of penalty. There is no provision in the new law that would lead to increases in co-pays, changes in eligibility requirements, or in any way modify how TRICARE or TRICARE for Life are administered .

Question: Will the health care reform bill take authority for veterans' health care away from the Department of Veterans Affairs?

Answer: NO. The new reform law does not undermine or change the Department of Veterans Affairs' mandate to provide comprehensive health care to veterans. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs will continue to maintain sole authority over the system and for enhancing the quality and access for all eligible veterans.

Question: How does health reform affect military veterans who do not qualify for VA assistance?

Answer: Through investments in new tax credits for low- and middle-income Americans to buy insurance, this new law will provide new choices to the hundreds of thousands of veterans that cannot afford health insurance and do not qualify for VA health care.

Moving forward, Congress is committed to ensuring that the Department of Veterans Affairs provides America's veterans the highest-quality health care possible. The President's fiscal year 2011 budget requests the largest single-year increase in VA funding in three decades, and significantly expands coverage, extending care to 500,000 more veterans who were previously excluded. As your member of Congress, I will do everything in my power to see that we keep our promise to our nation's heroes of the past, present, and future.